

# AbsitInvidia

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To J. Hill Hamon and Mike O'Connor I doff my hat respectfully and slide into line right behind them. I am impressed by the quality of their e-journals—and hope that my own e-journal can come close to their work. Also I am grateful to Bill Venrick for his efforts in putting these journals before the membership—at least before those who are online. I hope that more members will get on this new process for AAPA because it could well be the spark that ignites a new burst of enthusiasm for the group and for amateur journalism itself.

Despite the woeful predictions of doom for the printed journal, I do not believe that e-publishing will bring about the demise of the hard copy journal or eliminate the monthly bundle. The steam locomotive has not vanished, nor have sailing vessels. Log cabins are still in use and fine furniture is still made by hand. Those things that are a part of our lives; things that we love and enjoy as hobbies will still be loved and still be enjoyed whether they are on the cutting edge or not.

Rather than cry havoc, let's look upon a new method of publication as opportunity and challenge—something to explore. None of us are so naive as to expect that any one process or procedure will last forever, nor will new concepts be squelched by just one proven method. There is no denying that a skilled publisher's work is to be admired and emulated, and among AAPA's ranks are a number of those with unquestioned expertise in letterpress. There will always be an esteemed place for letterpress, unlike the ill-fated mimeograph, hectograph, and a few other devices which have faded from favor. I would have been among letterpress users if fate had lead me down a different path, but I content myself with admiring such printers as we have in AAPA while making-do with my computer.

I am privileged to be a part of this new era in publishing. I hope other ajayers will try their hands at presenting an e-journal. As a braveheart said on 9-11, "Let's roll!"

—Hugh Singleton

*Be not the first by whom the new are tried, nor yet the last to lay the old aside.* —Pope

Since I subscribe to this admonition I will try this new medium of publication in addition to what may now be termed "old" but certainly not "forsaken".  
—Hugh Singleton



## LAUREATES

The recognition of excellence is one of the most rewarding honors that man has yet devised, and yet too often that recognition fades with the next dawn. It is true that in the international scope of such awards as a Nobel or Pulitzer prize, the recipient does carry such honor to his or her grave, but I am thinking of lesser known achievements which exist within a smaller realm such as The American Amateur Press Association. When laureate awards are announced, we should take part in the celebration of such excellence by reviewing that particular work which earned the award. We should also communicate our appreciation to the award recipient. Such expressions of our respect for good work will serve to inspire us as well as the honoree to continue the quest for quality in the pursuit of our hobby. To do less is to diminish the value of our laureates by casting a shadow of disrespect and unconcern on the process. We need to emphasize every possible positive aspect of amateur journalism in these days of dwindling enthusiasm. Anything that we can do to enhance the practice and the preservation of this hobby is worthwhile, and I believe that raising the level of our laureate awards program is a positive step toward what we need. —Hugh Singleton

*Let the honor of thy fellow be as dear to thee as thine own.*

TALMUD (A.D. 1st-6th cent.)